

Action Item

California Postsecondary Education Commission

Approval of the Minutes of the July 22, 2003, Meeting

MINUTES

California Postsecondary Education Commission

Meeting of July 22, 2003

**Commissioner
present in
conference room**

Carol Chandler

**Commissioners
present via
teleconference**

Alan S. Arkatov *Chair*
Howard Welinsky, *Vice Chair*
George T. Caplan
Irwin S. Field
Odessa P. Johnson
Hugo Morales
Ralph R. Pesqueira
Guillermo Rodriguez, Jr.

**Commissioners
absent**

Evonne Seron Schulze
Rachel E. Shetka
Olivia K. Singh
Faye Washington

Call to order

Commission Chair Arkatov called the July 22, 2003 meeting of the California Postsecondary Education Commission to order at 9:10 a.m. He asked for a call of the roll. All Commissioners were present except Evonne Seron Schulze, Rachel Shetka, Olivia Singh, and Faye Washington.

**Report of the
Chair**

Chair Arkatov introduced Hugo Morales of Fresno, California, who was appointed by the Senate Rules Committee. He welcomed Commissioner Morales and provided the Commissioners with a brief statement regarding Commissioner Morales' background, noting that he is involved in Spanish language television, and is a board member of the Western Association of Schools and Colleges, Rosenberg Foundation, and the San Francisco Foundation.

Commissioner Morales thanked Chair Arkatov for his introduction. He noted his interest of working with the Commission on important higher education issues.

**Report of the
Executive Director**

Executive Director Moore provided the Commission with an update on the Commission's budget. He noted that the budget was subject to a super-majority vote (two-thirds of the members of the Legislature), and that it was costing the state between \$20 and \$25 million each day the budget was not passed. He then discussed the tremendous reductions on higher education budgets; but noted that the Commission fared reasonably well

during the budget process. Director Moore also provided the commissioners with an update on the recall election

Chair Arkatov expressed his appreciation for the substantial assistance that Senator John Vasconcellos provided on moving the Commission's budget forward.

Director Moore continued the discussion on the proposed budget noting that student access to community colleges could be seriously undermined.

Chair Arkatov stated that this was the worse time to raise fees, especially during an economic recession. He suggested that the Commission develop a fee policy that opposed substantial fee increases.

Commissioner Johnson responded that the proposed budget created difficult times for the University of California. However, she noted that a 25 to 30 percent increase in fees was necessary to offset the Governor's proposed reductions. She noted that she was especially concerned about the impact fee increases would have on middle-class students. She suggested that fees increases should be gradual, moderate and predictable, and that the University was trying to develop such a policy.

Commissioner Pesqueira said that the State University was facing a similar dynamic, and that the current economic situation was similar to that experienced in the early 1990s. He stated that fees should not exceed one-third the cost of instruction, and that the Legislature should not dictate fee policy. He also noted that the Governor and Legislature should not have bought out fee increases when the economy was stronger. He stated that families need to know what fees are going to be, and what kind of increases are likely, before students enroll.

Chair Arkatov asked if the Commission could assess the impact of fee increases on student attendance and college-going. He suggested that the Commission seek outside funding from the Irvine or Hewlett Foundations to assist the Commission on conducting a study on this issue.

Commissioner Johnson noted that if budget reductions were significant, that the University might have to curtail enrollment.

Commissioner Pesqueira also noted that the State University was considering enrollment management policies such as raising the GPA requirement for new students.

Vice Chair Welinsky suggested that the Commission really should examine the effects of fees on students.

Commissioner Caplan noted that it was difficult to assess the effect of fee increases on student enrollment at the community colleges. He said that the community colleges were already over-enrolled, stated gradual fee increases at the community colleges would not make a difference in terms of how many students enroll. However, he suggested that a statewide fee policy would be beneficial.

Chair Arkatov then moved the discussion on to congratulating the University of California Regents on their selection of Robert Dynes as President.

Commissioner Johnson noted that President Dynes has been very well received, and the Regents were looking forward to his ability to move the University forward during difficult economic times.

Commissioner Caplan then provided the Commission with an update on the Board of Governor's search for a new Chancellor. He noted that the Chancellor's salary was only 60% of some district superintendents, and that it was difficult to recruit a new Chancellor given this limitation. He also noted that many of the Chancellor's Office high-level executives were gubernatorial appointments, and that that made it difficult for a new Chancellor to pick his team. He asked the Commission for assistance in rectifying these salary and appointment issues.

**Report of the
Statutory Advisory
Committee**

Statutory Advisory Committee Chair Ron Fox stated that the committee would be meeting on July 29 to discuss the future activities of the Commission. He noted that Superintendent of Public Instruction Jack O'Connell filed a lawsuit that would allow the Legislature to pass a budget on a majority vote, and that he delayed the High School Exit Exam. Committee Chair Fox also noted that the State Department of Education was being reorganized; that community colleges Board of Governors had taken a position against the Racial Privacy Initiative; that CSU Monterey Bay received WASC accreditation; announced new members appointed to the various segmental governing boards; and that the University of California was exploring ways of acquiring the Monterey Institute for International Studies.

Statutory Advisory Committee Vice Chair Karen Yelverton Zamarripa spoke about the proposed budget reductions that the State University was facing, and that campuses were looking at ways of reducing enrollment by two percent. She noted that some campuses would not enroll new students in the spring term, and that enrollment would be limited because of a reduction in course offerings. She stated that the Commission should play a more active role in determining how higher education should be financed.

Commissioner Field expressed concern that the budget reductions would affect facility maintenance and that this was a serious problem.

Several commissioners shared Commissioner Field's concern and suggested that buildings in disrepair could also limit student access.

Todd Greenspan advised the Commission that as the state borrows money for operating its programs, it is limiting its ability to borrow additional money for facilities. He emphasized the importance of the next bond initiative for infrastructure; but noted that dollars generated from that initiative could not be used for deferred maintenance.

**Approval
of the minutes**

A quorum of the Commission having been established, Chair Arkatov asked for approval of the minutes from the June 3, 2003 meeting. Commissioner Welinsky moved the minutes, seconded by Commissioner Caplan. The minutes were approved unanimously.

**Resolution on the
California Race,
Ethnic, Color, and
National Origin
Initiative**

Vice Chair Welinsky provided the Commissioners with a summary of the proceedings of the June 3, 2003 meeting. He noted that the Commission heard from several presenters regarding the value of diversity in higher education, the admission processes to colleges and universities, and the value of data in conducting higher education research. He also provided a summary of the discussion regarding the pros and cons of the California Race, Ethnic, Color, and National Origin Initiative.

Based on the June 3, 2003 discussion, Vice Chair Welinsky made a motion to the Commission to adopt a written resolution that expressed the Commission's opposition to the initiative. Commissioner Johnson seconded the motion.

Commissioner Field suggested some minor word changes to the resolution, which were accepted.

Commissioner Chandler expressed her wish that we lived in race blind society; however, she would abstain from the vote on the resolution.

Commissioner Pesqueira stated that data on race and ethnicity are not needed for student admission to public colleges and universities, that he did not like the means by which such data were being used, and as such did not support the resolution.

On a seven to one vote, with one abstention, the Commission approved the resolution, and directed Executive Director Moore to transmit it to the Governor, Legislature, and People of California on behalf of the Commission.

**Legislative
Update, July 2003**

Staff member Karl Engelbach provided the Commission with a brief update on five bills that the Commission was tracking. He noted that there was no need to change Commission positions on these bills.

Director Moore noted that one bill, SB 84 (Scott), had been amended to change responsibilities of executives at the Community College Chancellor's Office, and to give the Chancellor more control over exempt staff positions.

Next meeting

Director Moore indicated that the next meeting of the Commission was scheduled for October 8, 2003 in Sacramento.

Adjournment

There being no further business, Chair Arkatov adjourned the meeting at 10:40 a.m.
